CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method comprising:

2 receiving an announcement for metadata, wherein said announcement

3 includes a metadata attribute and a first identifier for said metadata file;

4 receiving said metadata including a second identifier; and

5 if said first and second identifiers match, using said metadata for receiving

6 a video program or enhancement described in said metadata.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said announcement is compliant

2 with an Advanced Television Enhancement Forum (ATVEF) standard.

1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein said metadata attribute uses the

2 "a:type" parameter specified in a Session Description Protocol (SDP).

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein said metadata is received as an

2 enhancement to a video signal.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein said first and second identifiers are

2 of a Universally Unique Identifier (UUID) format.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein said metadata further specifies a

2 pre-determined future time to which said video program or enhancement will be

3 available for receiving.

1 7. The method of claim 6, further including receiving said video

2 program or enhancement at said future time.

1   8.   The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving said metadata
2 comprises:
3   receiving an IP address included in said announcement, wherein
4 said IP address identifies a database in which said metadata is stored;
5   transmitting a request for said metadata to said database; and
6   receiving said metadata from said database.

1   9.   A data structure, comprising:
2   an announcement including an attribute to announce metadata that
3 provides information about at least one available video program or enhancement
4 for receiving at a client receiver.

1   10.   The data structure of claim 9, wherein said announcement is
2 compliant with an Advanced Television Enhancement Forum (ATVEF) standard.

1   11.   The data structure of claim 10, wherein said announcement
2 conforms to a Session Description Protocol (SDP).

1   12.   The data structure of claim 9, comprising an identifier for said
2 metadata.

1   13.   The data structure of claim 12, wherein said identifier comprises a
2 Universally Unique Identifier (UUID).

1   14.   The data structure of claim 9, wherein said session announcement
2 comprises a network address for a database having stored therein said metadata.

1   15.   The data structure of claim 14, wherein said network address
2 comprises an Internet Protocol (IP) address.

1   16.   A source transmitter, comprising:

2   an interface to a communications link;

3   a memory; and

4   a logic circuit to transmit an announcement stored in said memory,

5   wherein said announcement comprises an attribute to announce metadata that

6   provides information about at least one available video program or enhancement

7   to be received at a client receiver.

1   17.   The source transmitter of claim 16, wherein said announcement is

2   compliant with an Advanced Television Enhancement Forum (ATVEF) standard.

1   18.   The source transmitter of claim 17, wherein said announcement

2   conforms to a Session Description Protocol (SDP).

1   19.   The source transmitter of clam 16, wherein said announcement

2   comprises an identifier for said metadata.

1   20.   The source transmitter of claim 19, wherein said identifier

2   comprises a Universally Unique Identifier (UUID).

1   21.   The source transmitter of claim 16, wherein said announcement

2   comprises a network address for a database having stored therein said metadata.

1   22.   The source transmitter of claim 21, wherein said network address

2   comprises an Internet Protocol (IP) address.

1   23.   The source transmitter of claim 16, wherein said logic circuit

2   transmits said metadata after said announcement has been transmitted.

1   24.   A machine readable medium comprising:

2   a software routine to cause a logic circuit to transmit an announcement

3 including an attribute to announce metadata that provides information about at

4 least one available video program or enhancement for receiving at a client

5 receiver.

1   25.   The machine readable medium of claim 24, wherein said

2 announcement is compliant with an Advanced Television Enhancement Forum

3 (ATVEF) standard.

1   26.   The machine readable medium of claim 25, wherein said

2 announcement conforms to a Session Description Protocol (SDP).

1   27.   The machine readable medium of clam 24, wherein said

2 announcement comprises an identifier for said metadata.

1   28.   The machine readable medium of claim 27, wherein said identifier

2 comprises a Universally Unique Identifier (UUID).

1   29.   The machine readable medium of claim 24, wherein said

2 announcement comprises a network address for a database having stored therein

3 said metadata.

1   30.   The machine readable medium of claim 29, wherein said network

2 address comprises an Internet Protocol (IP) address.